

Chapter 3: Demographic Characteristics

Census block groups-level presentation



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This chapter provides U.S. Census Bureau (Census) information on the residents of South Wilmington, presented using the block groups shown in Figure 3.1. Data are presented on the population, education, household, and disability characteristics of block groups in the South Wilmington area, as well as for the comparative areas of the City of Wilmington and New Castle County.

Note that some of the data variables presented in this chapter are the same data variables as were presented in Chapter 2; however, the data in Chapter 3 are presented at a different level of Census geography. As discussed previously, disclosure issues restrict data availability at the blocks level, and therefore only a limited number of demographic data variables are presented in Chapter 2. In order to allow the inclusion of a greater number of data variables, and thus thoroughly describe the population of South Wilmington, it was necessary to change the dimension and extent of the study area by using Census block groups. Census block groups, for which data are presented in Chapter 3, represent the next level above Census blocks in the geographic hierarchy; a block group is the smallest geographic entity for which the Census releases all data. Aggregated data for the block groups shown in Figure 3.1. are presented; these four Census block groups represent the closest match between the SAMP Project Area geography (shown in Figure 1.1.) and Census block groups.

For the remainder of Chapter 3, references to "South Wilmington" represent the area bounded by the four Census block groups selected to best cover the SAMP Project Area which includes Southbridge and the New Castle/Route 9 corridor developments.

South Wilmington block groups-level **Key Numbers:**

Total population: 5,103

Population density: 914.5 persons/ mi² Majority race: Black (81.3 percent)

Percent male: 44.7 Percent female: 55.3

Total students enrolled: 1,685

Average highest level of educational attainment: High school diploma

Total number of households: 1,782

Percent family households: 72.4 Percent non-family households: 27.6 Percent households with children: 38.7

Percent of population with a disability: 25.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

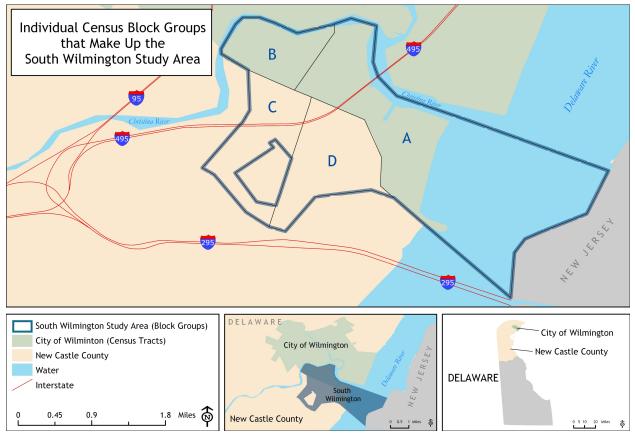


Figure 3.1. The four Census block groups that make up the South Wilmington study area used in this chapter of the report. Sources: Delaware Department of Transportation, 2001; U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

3.a. Population Characteristics

In 2000, South Wilmington had a total population of 5,103; the City of Wilmington had a population of 72,664; and New Castle County had a total population of 500,265 (see Table 3.1.). This section of the chapter presents the racial composition, gender distribution, and age distribution for the South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County populations.

	Total population
South Wilmington	5,103
City of Wilmington	72,664
New Castle County	500,265

Table 3.1. Total population in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000*

	Total area	Population density
South Wilmington	5.58 mi ²	914.5 persons/ mi ²
City of Wilmington	10.85 mi ²	6,698.1 persons/ mi ²
New Castle County	426.27 mi ²	1,173.6 persons/ mi ²

Table 3.2. Area and population density for South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.

Racial composition

In 2000, of the 5,103 people living in South Wilmington, 4,148, or 81.3 percent, reported being Black, making this the majority race in the study area (Figure 3.2.). The White population, at 646 people, represented 12.7 percent of the South Wilmington population. Less than three percent of South Wilmington residents reported being of two or more races or some other race not otherwise represented in Census 2000. Less than one percent of the South Wilmington population reported being Asian or Native American and no residents reported their race as Pacific.

With respect to racial composition, the primary difference seen between South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County was the race of the majority population (see Figure 3.2.). While in South Wilmington and Wilmington the majority race was Black, in New Castle County, the White population was the majority, representing nearly three-quarters of the total New Castle County population.

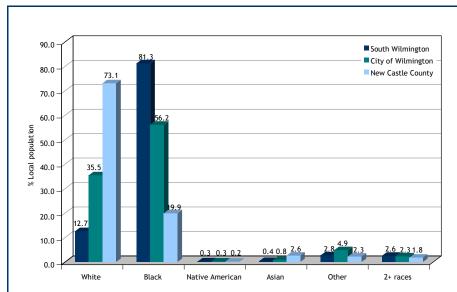


Figure 3.2. Racial composition as percentages of the local populations of South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000*

- The majority populations in South Wilmington and the City of Wilmington were Black.
- The majority population in New Castle County was White.

Gender distribution

In South Wilmington, 2,823 people, or 55.3 percent of the population, were female and 2,280 people, or 44.7 percent, were male (Figure 3.3.). Although South Wilmington did have a slightly higher proportion of females than did either the City of Wilmington or New Castle County, the South Wilmington female-male ratio was similar to that seen in the City of Wilmington, where 52.2 percent of the population was female, and in New Castle County, where females accounted for 51.5 percent of the population.

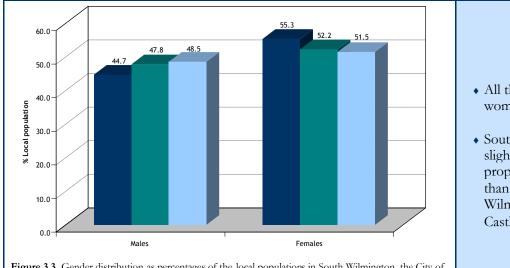


Figure 3.3. Gender distribution as percentages of the local populations in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

- All three areas had more women than men.
- South Wilmington had a slightly greater proportion of females than did the City of Wilmington or New Castle County.

Age distribution

The two largest age groups in South Wilmington were between the ages of five to 17 (26.4 percent) and 25 to 44 (27.2 percent) (see Figure 3.4.). The next largest age group in South Wilmington was the 45 to 64-year old age group, followed by the 65 and older group and those in the 18 to 24-year old age range. The fewest number of South Wilmington residents were under the age of five.

As shown in Figure 3.4., the age distribution in South Wilmington differs from the distributions in both the City of Wilmington and New Castle County. Overall, the South Wilmington population was younger than the populations in the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, where nearly one-third of the total population was over the age of 45 (versus less than 30 percent in South Wilmington). While more South Wilmington residents fell into the 25 to 44-year old age range than in any other age group, the percentages of 25 to 44-year olds in the City of Wilmington and New Castle County were higher than that of South Wilmington.

When considering age differences between females and males in South Wilmington, most South Wilmington females were between the ages of 25 and 44, while most males were between the ages of five and 17 (see Figure 3.5.). A larger proportion of the South Wilmington population over the age of 65 was female, while more South Wilmington residents under the age of five were male.

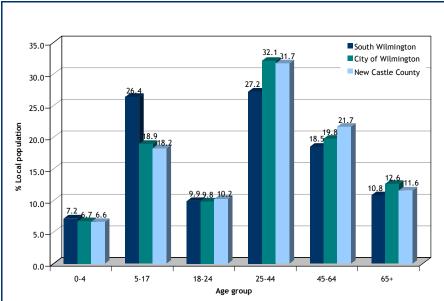
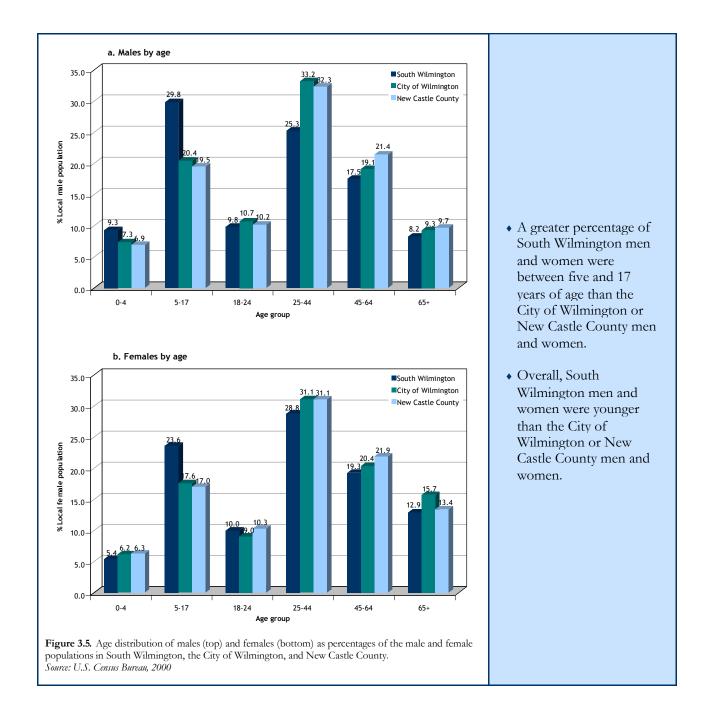


Figure 3.4. Age distribution as percentages of the total populations of South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000*

- Relative to the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, a greater percentage of the South Wilmington population was between five to 17 years of age.
- Overall, the City of Wilmington and New Castle County had older populations than South Wilmington.



3.b. Education

This section presents information on the highest level of education completed and school enrollment in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.

Educational attainment

This section presents information for the highest level of education completed by the South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County populations aged 25 years and over. In

2000, 2,885 South Wilmington residents were over 25 years of age; 46,855 Wilmington residents were over 25 years old; and 324,810 New Castle County residents fell into the 25 and over age group.

In South Wilmington, over two-thirds of the 25 and over population had graduated from high school (Figure 3.6.). In South Wilmington, the most commonly achieved education level was that of high school graduate (34.6 percent). Slightly less than 20 percent of the South Wilmington population over the age of 25 years had completed some college, but had not graduated. The college completion rate in 2000 in South Wilmington was 8.8 percent.

For the City of Wilmington, the pattern of achieved education level was similar to that of South Wilmington; one difference was that, in Wilmington, the percentage of the population with a college degree or higher was greater than in South Wilmington. By contrast, in 2000, less than fifteen percent of the New Castle County population had not received a high school diploma and nearly 30 percent had been conferred college or graduate degrees.

When examining educational attainment by gender (Figure 3.7.), the most common level of education completed by South Wilmington females was high school, while the largest percentage of South Wilmington males did not receive high school diplomas (although this percentage was nearly equal to the percentage of males receiving high school diplomas.) A greater overall percentage of South Wilmington women than men completed education beyond high school; otherwise, the patterns of attainment between South Wilmington men and women were similar.

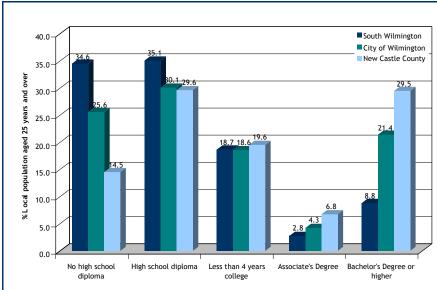
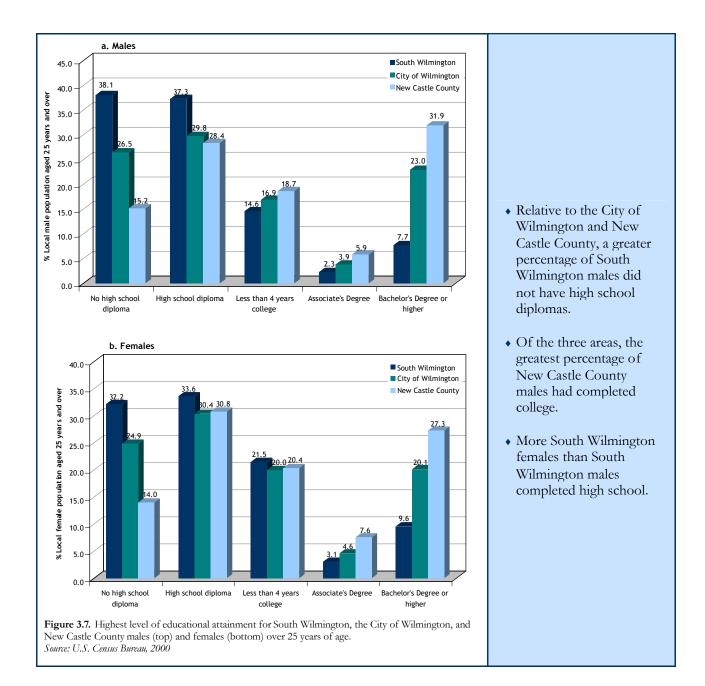


Figure 3.6. Highest level of educational attainment for South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County populations over 25 years of age. *Source: U.S. Census Burean, 2000*

- Most South Wilmington residents over 25 years of age graduated from high school.
- In all three areas, the most commonly achieved education level was that of high school graduate.
- Relative to the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, South Wilmington had the greatest percentage of its population with no high school diploma.



School enrollment

In 2000, the South Wilmington population over the age of three years (i.e., eligible to attend school) was 4,877; of these, one-third were enrolled (see Figure 3.8.). These 1,685 students included 129 students enrolled in nursery school, 492 enrolled in grades kindergarten-4, 483 in grades 5-8, 466 in grades 9-12, 95 in college, and 20 in graduate school. While South Wilmington females enrolled in nursery school outnumbered males, the number of males and females enrolled in other secondary school (K-12) levels was relatively equal. However, the number of females enrolled in post-secondary (undergraduate and graduate) schools was higher than the number of males enrolled (Figure 3.10.).

As in South Wilmington, in both the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, boys slightly outnumbered girls in grades K-8; however, in the City of Wilmington, more 9-12-level students were female (Figure 3.10.). Also, much like South Wilmington, both the City of Wilmington and New Castle County had higher percentages of female than male undergraduate and graduate students.

Relative to the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, a larger percentage of South Wilmington K-12 students attended public schools (Figure 3.11.). In South Wilmington, 1,356 students, or 94.1 percent of all K-12 students enrolled, attended public schools, versus 85 students, or 5.9 percent, who attended private schools. In contrast, 21,041 New Castle County students, or 22.9 percent of all K-12 New Castle County students enrolled, attended private schools during the year 2000.

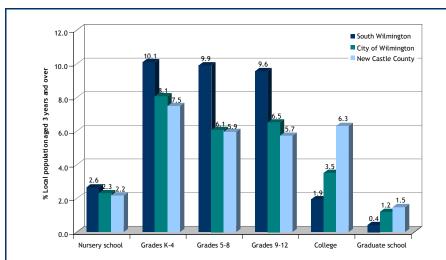


Figure 3.8. Total school enrollment by level as percentages of the local populations aged over three years for South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000*

- Relative to the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, a greater percentage of the South Wilmington population over three years of age was enrolled in school.
- Of the three areas, South Wilmington had the highest proportion of its population enrolled in nursery school through twelfth grade.

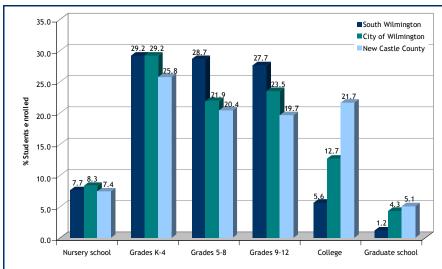
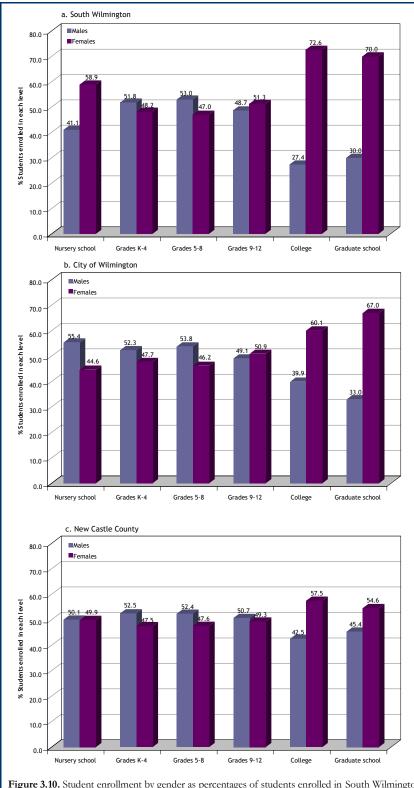


Figure 3.9. Total school enrollment by level as percentages of students enrolled for South Wilmington, City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

- Of the three areas, New Castle County had the greatest percentage of students in college.
- Relative to the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, more South Wilmington students were enrolled in grades 5-12.



 In all three areas, more females than males were enrolled in college and graduate school.

• In South Wilmington, girls outnumbered boys in nursery school and high school, while boys outnumbered girls in middle school.

Figure 3.10. Student enrollment by gender as percentages of students enrolled in South Wilmington (top), the City of Wilmington (middle), and New Castle County (bottom).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

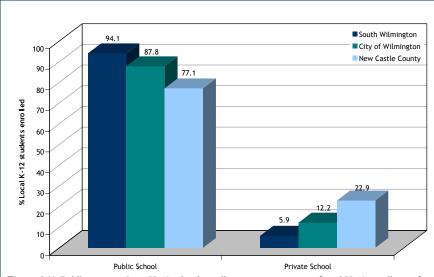


Figure 3.11. Public versus private K-12 school enrollment as percentages of total K-12 enrollment for South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

 A larger percentage of South Wilmington students attended K-12 public schools than did City of Wilmington or New Castle County students.

3.c. Household Characteristics

This section presents information on the households in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County. As mentioned in Chapter 2, a household includes all of the people who occupy a housing unit; a housing unit is defined as a space intended as separate living quarters with direct access from outside the building or through a common hall (Woodward & Damon, 2001). Each household has a single "householder," who is typically the person who owns the home or whose name appears on the rental lease (Simmons & O'Neill). Persons not living in households were classified by Census 2000 as living in group quarters.

According to Census 2000, there were 1,782 total households in South Wilmington; 28,661 households in the City of Wilmington; and 188,974 households in New Castle County (see Table 3.3.). In South Wilmington, 100 percent of residents were living in households; in the City of Wilmington, 94 percent of residents were in households; and 96 percent of New Castle County residents were household residents.

	Total households
South Wilmington	1,782
City of Wilmington	28,661
New Castle County	188,974

Table 3.3. Total number of households in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000*

Household types

The Census Bureau defines two household types: (1) family households, where the householder and the people in the household are related and (2) non-family households, where the householder is living alone or with non-relatives (Simmons & O'Neill, 2001). Nearly three-quarters of South Wilmington households were family households, which is a greater percentage than seen in the City of Wilmington and New Castle County (Table 3.4. and Figure 3.12.). The majority (36.1 percent) of all South Wilmington households were female family households, meaning households with a female householder and no husband present. In contrast, in the City of Wilmington, the majority of households were single-person households and approximately half of all New Castle County households were married-couple households.

	South Wilmington	City of Wilmington	New Castle County
Total number of households	1,782	28,661	188,974
Family households	72.4	55.6	67.7
Married-couple households	29.4	27.7	50.8
Female householder, no husband present	36.1	23.2	12.9
Male householder, no wife present	6.9	4.8	4.1
Non-family households	27.6	44.4	32.3
One person	21.9	37.0	25.7
Two or more persons	11.5	13.5	8.6
65 years and over	5.6	7.4	6.6

Table 3.4.: Percent of households by type for South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000*

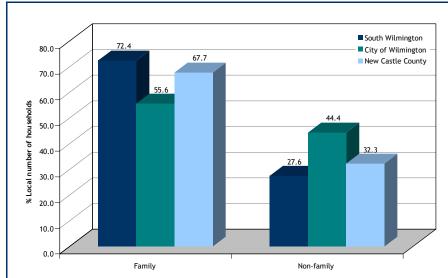


Figure 3.12. Family and non-family households in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

- South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County all had more family households than nonfamily households.
- Of the three areas, South Wilmington had the highest percentage of family households.

Household size

In 2000, nearly 70 percent of South Wilmington households had between one to three persons, with two-person households begin the most common (Figure 3.13.). Households with more than six people made up less than six percent of all South Wilmington households. Like South Wilmington, smaller households (less than four people) were more common than larger households in the City of Wilmington and New Castle County. However, unlike South Wilmington, over one-third of City of Wilmington households were single-person households and nearly one-third of New Castle County households had two people.

Most South Wilmington family households had three people (Figure 3.14.), while less than ten percent of South Wilmington family households had six or more people. In contrast, nearly 40 percent of New Castle County family households had two people. In South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County, the most common non-family households had only one person.

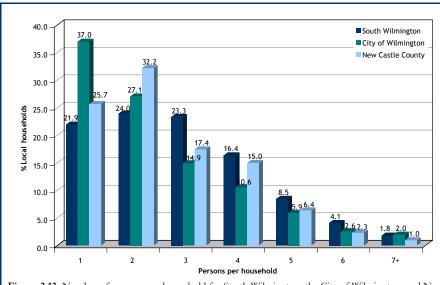
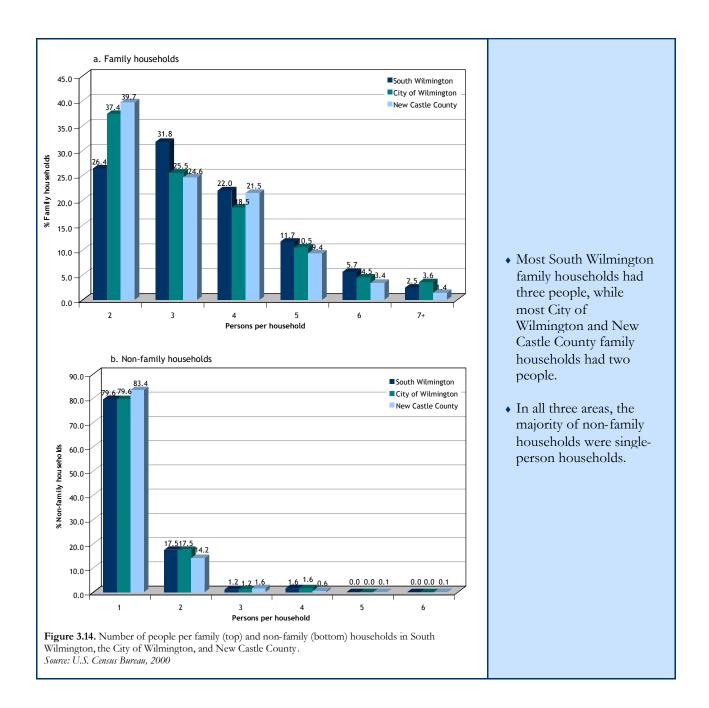


Figure 3.13. Number of persons per household for South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.

Source: U.S. Čensus Bureau, 2000

- Relative to South
 Wilmington and New
 Castle County, the City
 of Wilmington had the
 largest percentage of
 single-person
 households.
- In all three areas, households with three or fewer persons were most common.



Household resident characteristics

In 2000, 41.9 percent of South Wilmington householders fell into the 25 to 44-year old age range, followed by 30.8 percent in the 45 to 64-year old age group, 23.1 percent in the 65 and over group, and 4.3 percent in the under 25-year old group. Similar householder-age distributions were found in the City of Wilmington and New Castle County (Figure 3.15. and Table 3.5.). Relative to South Wilmington and the City of Wilmington, New Castle County had a slightly higher percentage of householders in the 45 to 64-year old age range and a lower percentage of householders over the age of 65.

In South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County, over half of household residents who where not householders were children (Figure 3.16.). The next highest percentage of household residents included spouses of householders. In all three areas, non-relatives living in family households were the least common.

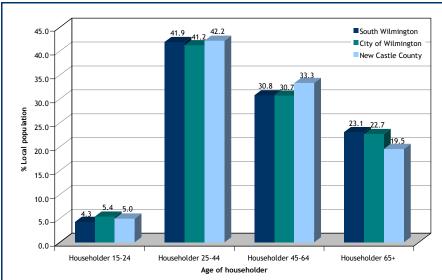


Figure 3.15. Percentages of heads of households by age in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

- The overall distribution of householder ages was similar in all three areas.
- In South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County, the greatest percentage of householders were between 25 and 44 years of age.

	South Wilmington	City of Wilmington	New Castle County
Total number of households	1,782	28,661	188,974
Family households	72.4	55.6	67.7
Householder aged 15-24	3.6	2.9	2.1
Householder aged 25-44	34.8	2.6	30.9
Householder aged 45-64	24.5	17.7	24.1
Householder aged 65+	9.5	8.6	10.6
Non-family households	27.6	44.4	32.3
Householder aged 15-24	0.7	2.5	2.9
Householder aged 25-44	7.1	14.9	11.3
Householder aged 45-64	6.3	13.0	9.2
Householder aged 65+	13.5	14.0	8.9

Table 3.5. Percent of head of households by age for South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000*

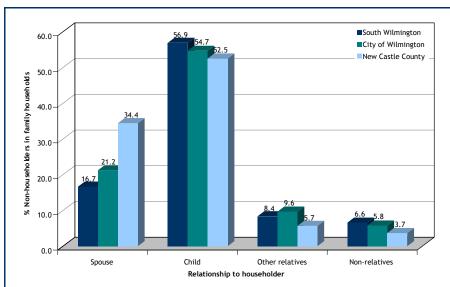


Figure 3.16. Relationship of household members to householders in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County family households. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

- In all three areas, most non-householder household residents were children.
- Relative to the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, South Wilmington had the smallest percentage of spouses living in family households.

Characteristics of households with children

In 2000, 38.7 percent of all South Wilmington households had children, 27.4 percent of City of Wilmington households had children, and 33.0 percent of New Castle County households had children. Of the South Wilmington households with children, most were female-led family households (Figure 3.17.). By contrast, the majority of New Castle County households with children were married-couple families. In all three areas, the smallest percentage of households with children was male-family households.

South Wilmington had 1,248 children; the City of Wilmington had 14,473 children; and New Castle County had 110,380 children in the year 2000. Most of the children in all three areas were of school age (over four years of age) and over half were between five to 13 years of age (Figure 3.18.). Relative to the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, South Wilmington had the smallest percentage of children under the age of five. The vast majority (over 90 percent) of all children in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County were the natural-born children of the householder with which they lived (Figure 3.19.).

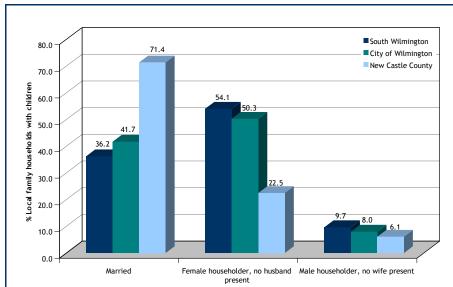


Figure 3.17. Percentages of family households by type in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County households with children. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000*

- Relative to the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, South Wilmington had the lowest percentage of married-family households with children.
- The majority of South Wilmington households with children were female-family households.

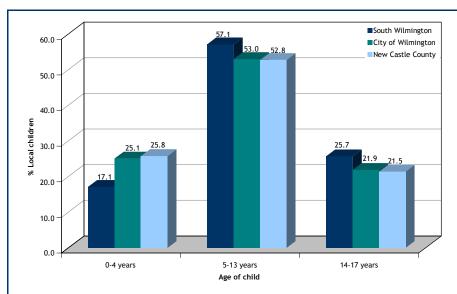
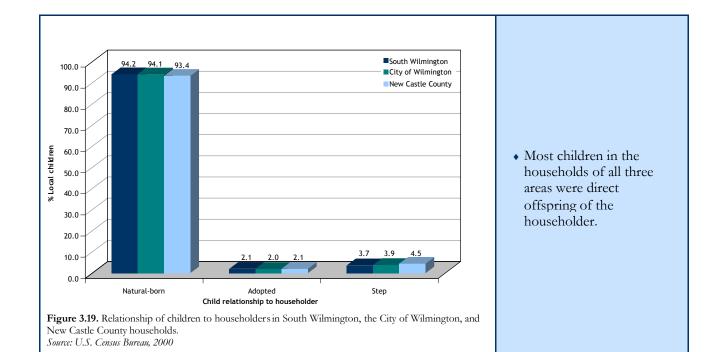


Figure 3.18. Age distributions of children in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County households.

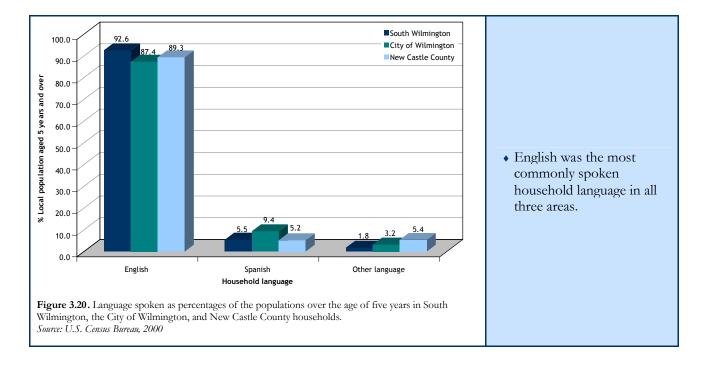
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

- Most children in all three areas were between five and 13 years old.
- Relative to the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, South Wilmington had a lower percentage of children under five and a higher percentage of children over the age of 13.



Household language

In South Wilmington, the language most commonly spoken in households was English (92.6 percent), followed by Spanish (5.5 percent), and then a language other than English or Spanish (1.8 percent) (Figure 3.20.). The same distribution of households languages can be seen in the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, although South Wilmington did have a higher percentage of English-speaking households than either of the comparative areas.



3.d. Disability Characteristics

This section presents information on the disability status, by age and type of disability, of people over the age of five in the civilian non-institutionalized populations of South Wilmington (4,726 people), the City of Wilmington (64,874 people), and New Castle County (458,998 people).

Types of disabilities discussed in this section include the following, as identified in Census 2000:

- Sensory disabilities involve long-lasting impairments to vision or hearing
- Physical disabilities involve physical limitations, such as walking or climbing stairs
- Mental disabilities involve difficulties with cognitive tasks, such as learning, remembering, and concentrating
- Self-care disabilities involve difficulties in taking care of personal needs, such as dressing and bathing
- Go-outside-home disabilities involve difficulties going outside the home to do things such as shopping or visiting the doctor
- Employment disabilities involve having a condition that makes it difficult to work at a job or a business (Waldrop & Stern, 2003).

In 2000, 25.3 percent of the South Wilmington population aged over five reported having some type of disability (Table 3.6.); a greater percentage of this population was female (15.6 percent) than male (9.7 percent) and the largest percentage (16.7 percent) was between the ages of 16 to 64 (Figure 3.21.). Similar patterns were seen in the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, where greater percentages of women than men and members of the 16 to 64-year old age group reported having disabilities. Overall, New Castle County had the lowest portion of its total population report having a disability.

In 2000, 2,322 total disabilities were reported in South Wilmington; 27,623 disabilities were reported in Wilmington; and 134,117 disabilities were reported in New Castle County (Table 3.7.). In all three areas, physical disabilities were the most commonly reported type of disability (Figure 3.23.). South Wilmington had higher percentages of sensory and self-care disabilities than did the City of Wilmington and New Castle County.

When examining type of disability by age, in all three areas the majority of the population reporting a disability between the ages of five and 15 had mental disabilities. For the population between 16 and 64 years of age, disabilities that prevented employment were most common in all three geographic areas. For the population over the age of 65 with a disability, physical disabilities were most often reported in all three areas; the South Wilmington 65 and older population had a greater percentage of sensory disabilities than the two comparative areas.

	Population aged over 5 Population with a disability		isability
	3	Total	Percent
South Wilmington	4,726	1,196	25.3
City of Wilmington	64, 874	15,336	23.6
New Castle County	458,998	77,673	16.9

Table 3.6. Population aged over five with a disability in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000*

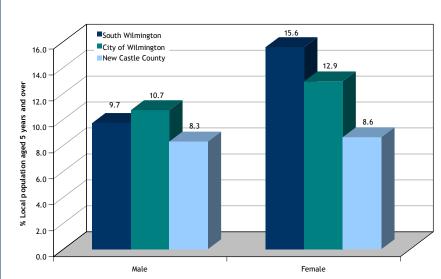


Figure 3.21. Percentages of the populations aged over five with a disability by sex in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

- In all three areas, a larger percentage of females reported having disabilities than did men.
- Relative to the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, a greater proportion of South Wilmington women reported having a disability.

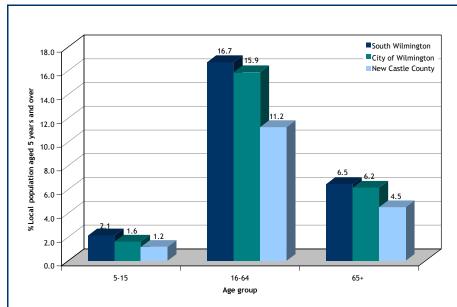


Figure 3.22. Percentages of the populations aged over five with a disability by age in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000*

• In South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County, the largest proportion of the population reporting a disability was between 16 to 64 years old.

	South Wilmington	City of Wilmington	New Castle County
Total number of disabilities	2,322	27,623	134,117
For population aged 5-15	113	1,408	6,800
For population aged 16-64	1,472	17,953	87,268
For population aged 65+	737	8,262	40,049

Table 3.7. Total disabilities tallied by age for South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000*

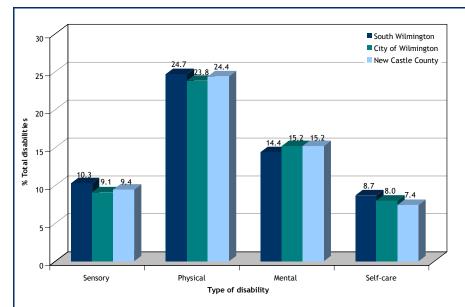
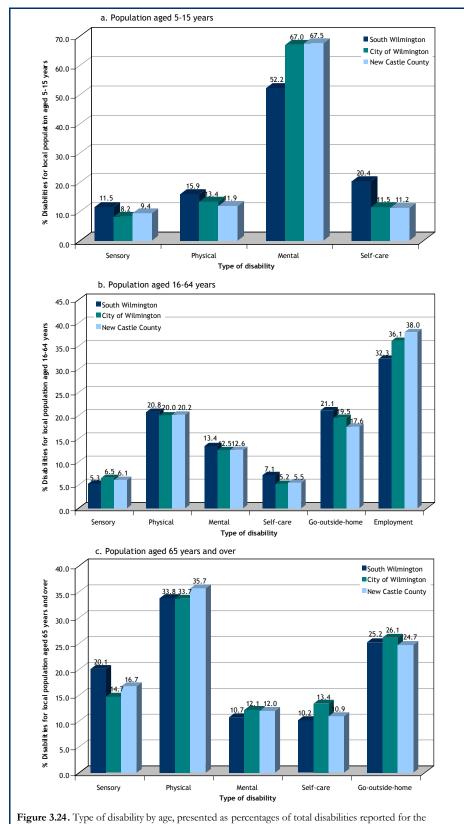


Figure 3.23. Type of disability by percentages of total disabilities reported for the populations over the age of five years in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000*

- Relative to the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, a larger percentage of sensory disabilities were reported in South Wilmington.
- In all three areas, physical disabilities were the most commonly reported type of disability.



• For the populations between five and 15 years of age, mental disabilities were most common in all three areas.

- Relative to the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, a smaller percentage of South Wilmington reported disabilities that prohibited employment.
- Physical disabilities were most commonly reported for the South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County populations over 65 years of age.